Awards

Purcell, Roberts, Moskowitz Awards

Wesley Lum, Richard Shepard and Brent Felker are recipients of the 2002 Purcell, Roberts and Moskowitz awards, the most prestigious awards handed out annually to transportation professionals by the California Transportation Foundation. The awards were announced at the Transportation Foundation's Tranny Banquet on May 8 at the Sacramento Community Center.

For more than a decade, the Foundation, along with Caltrans, has recognized the contributions of Caltrans registered engineers to transportation engineering and management with two awards, the Charles H. Purcell and Karl Moskowitz Awards.

A new award, named for recently-retired Chief Structures Engineer James E. Roberts, was inaugurated in 2002. Roberts is considered one of the world's most distinguished authorities on structural engineering.

Wesley Lum, Brent Felker and Richard Shephard, recipients of this year's major transportation awards.

Together, the three awards acknowledge those who have made a distinct impression not only on California's transportation landscape, but that of the world. This celebrated group of individuals has developed processes and innovations with far-reaching influence, nationally and internationally.

"With great pleasure I announce that Richard Shepard, Chief, Office of Structure Analysis and Management in Structure Maintenance and Investigation, will receive the first James E. Roberts Award," said Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Tony Harris.

The Roberts award is given to a registered Caltrans engineer at the supervising engineer level or below. Shepard is an internationally recognized advocate and leader in bridge management procedures. His efforts have brought worldwide recognition to Caltrans and provided outstanding value to the California taxpayers in the management of the California Bridge Inventory.

Shepard lends his expertise and research on Bridge Management systems as a speaker at international seminars and conferences around the world.

The 2002 Karl Moskowitz Award was presented to Wesley Lum, Chief, Office of Infrastructure Research. Karl Moskowitz served for 27 years as a traffic engineer for the State Department of Transportation; his work in freeway design and traffic flow is still used extensively by planners and engineers nationwide. The award recognizes outstanding contributions by an individual at the supervising engineer level or below.

"Wes Lum has worked tirelessly to promote California's perspective nationally," Harris said. "Wes' active role with the Transportation Research Board has pushed the Caltrans vision of 'increasing mobility across California' into the national programs of the National Academy of Science."

"As a member of WASHTO and AASHTO's Research Advisory Committee, he has worked with the Transportation Research Board to advance the next strategic highway research program," Harris said.

The California Transportation Foundation awarded the 2002 Charles H. Purcell Award to Brent Felker, Caltrans Chief Engineer. Purcell served as the California State Highway Engineer from 1928 to 1943, establishing California's extraordinary leadership in engineering and in the integrity of what is now Caltrans.

The Purcell award recognizes outstanding contributions by an individual at the supervising engineer level or above.

"As Caltrans Chief Engineer, Brent has moved the State Highway Account from the position of having $2 billion of cash reserves to having $7 billion of work under construction on California's highway system by the end of 2002," Harris said. "These accomplishments are made possible by his oversight of managers who are responsible for resources comprised of more than 12,000 staff, over $270 million in consultant contracts, and an annual operating budget of $1.4 billion."

– Janis Deverter, Office of External Affairs

2002 Innovations Award

The California Department of Transportation is the winner in the design/operations category of the National Association of State Facilities Administrators' 2002 Innovations Award for Energy Conservation. Caltrans will be recognized formally with a plaque during this year's annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The program is estimated to have reached more eight million individuals in its promotion of energy conservation at home and at work.

Last year, when California routinely faced the threat of energy shortages and extended rolling blackouts, Caltrans implemented aggressive and innovative energy conservation measures that contributed to significant energy savings and the avoidance of blackouts. The department is currently implementing 24 energy conservation projects with savings expected to exceed 36,000 kilowatts daily.

Caltrans accelerated its Light Emitting Diode Traffic Signal program this past year. The signals are 92 percent more energy efficient with a life expectancy more than six times longer than the signals they replace. Caltrans is also installing LED signal intersection battery backup systems that virtually eliminate signal down time due to power outages by providing backup power for more than 10 hours.

Steve Alston, Chief of the Division of Business, Facilities, Asset Management and Security

Departmental conservation efforts have also included an extensive outreach program to employees and their families, customers, partners and active participation in local energy fairs. The program is estimated to have reached more eight million individuals in its promotion of energy conservation at home and at work.

Caltrans implemented a rolling blackout plan to deal with short- and long-term blackouts. The plan includes three warning levels to ensure employee safety, protect critical data and enable the department to provide essential services during blackout periods. Many other energy conservation measures currently being implemented by Caltrans are keeping power usage – and bills — at a minimum.

Steve Alston, Chief of the Division of Business, Facilities, Asset Management and Security, will accept the Innovations Award for the department.

– Greg Case, Staff Services Manager I, Facilities Energy Program